Review of the review

MFRC Meeting

July 25, 2012

Cloquet

Reviewer criteria

1. Substantial knowledge and experience in the associated discipline that must be in a forest management context

2. Be able to apply knowledge and experience to conditions in the Lake States or Ontario forests

3. Must not have been involved in any component of the current revision process (including RSTC).

Scientific disciplines: forest ecology, aquatic biology, wildlife biology, forest soils, Silviculture

Practitioner disciplines – logger, resource manager or forester, landowner

Scientific Reviewers

Aquatic
Bruce Vondracek (UMN)
Joe Mix (MN DNR)
Jason Butcher (USFS)

Wildlife
Mike Houser (Potlach)
Gary Roloff (MI State)
Tim Quincer (MNDNR)

For. Ecology
Meredith Cornett (TNC)
Brad Hutnik (WI DNR)
Cheryl Adams (UPM)

Soils
Dave Morris (Ontario MNS)
Dick Rossman (MNDNR)

Silvics
Gary Swanson (USFS)
Tony D'Amato (UMN)

Practitioner Reviewers

Landowner
Mike Greenheck
Robert Sonnenberg
Steve Earley

Forester
Glendon Nyberg
Dennis J. Thompson
Quentin Legler

Logger
Mike Warren
Mike Rieger
Clarence Johnson

Peer review Process

Duration:

May 8 – June 5

Materials:

Background

Summary of changes

Detailed language

Review forms

Assessment:

qualitative ranking

narrative comments

Scientific Review Evaluation Form

Name of Reviewer: _____

Affiliation: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Review subtopic: Infrastructure   Leave trees   Biomass harvest   RMZ's

Evaluation Criteria	**Rating (select one)***				
	Increase** substantially	Increase slightly	No change	Decrease slightly	Decrease substantially
Practicality (Do the proposed changes describe practices that can be more easily applied on the ground?)					
Effectiveness (Will the proposed changes protect the resource compared to the existing standards?)					
Science-based (Are the proposed changes consistent with current scientific principles and understanding?)					
Flexibility (Can the proposed changes be applied to variable forest conditions and landowner objectives)					
Clarity and ease of use (Will the proposed changes improve understanding and application by user groups)					

Overall rating of proposed changes

Public review / comment period

Public review conducted concurrently (May 11-June 8)
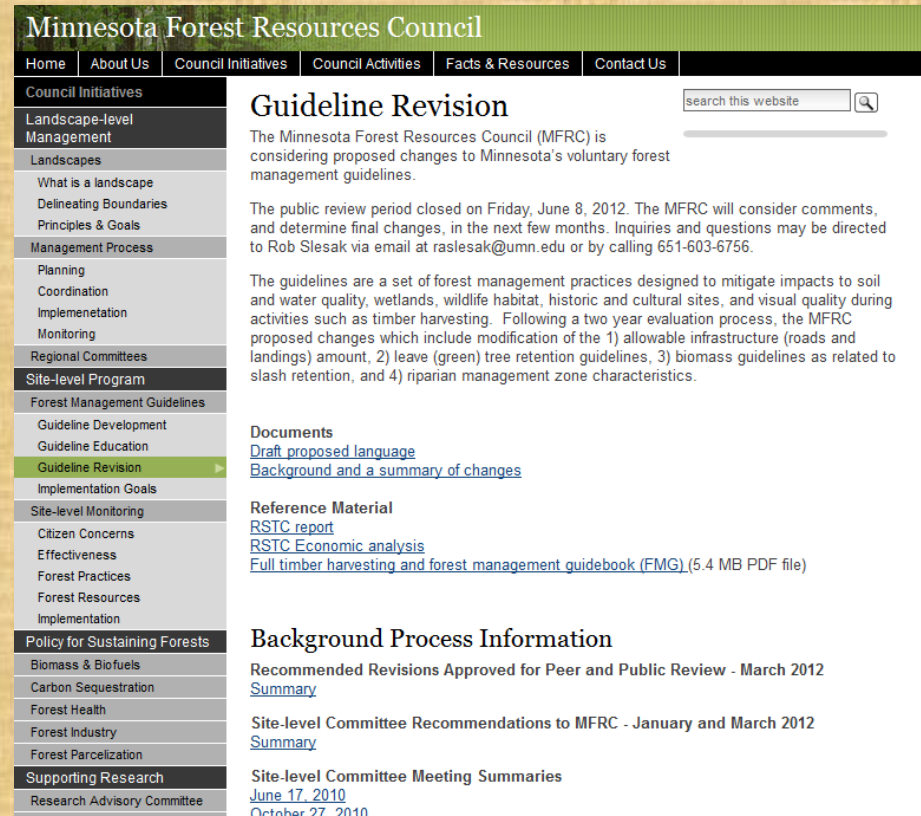
Similar process to peer review
- Qualitative rankings
- Narrative comments

<u>8 comments submitted</u>
- DNR   - SAF
- Sierra Club - St. Louis Co.
- Audubon   - MN TU
- MN AFS   - RGS

Comments on RMZ only

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Home | About Us | Council Initiatives | Council Activities | Facts & Resources | Contact Us

Council Initiatives
Landscape-level Management
Landscapes
What is a landscape
Delineating Boundaries
Principles & Goals
Management Process
Planning
Coordination
Implemenetation
Monitoring
Regional Committees
Site-level Program
Forest Management Guidelines
Guideline Development
Guideline Education
Guideline Revision
Implementation Goals
Site-level Monitoring
Citizen Concerns
Effectiveness
Forest Practices
Forest Resources
Implementation
Policy for Sustaining Forests
Biomass & Biofuels
Carbon Sequestration
Forest Health
Forest Industry
Forest Parcelization
Supporting Research
Research Advisory Committee

Guideline Revision

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) is considering proposed changes to Minnesota's voluntary forest management guidelines.

The public review period closed on Friday, June 8, 2012. The MFRC will consider comments, and determine final changes, in the next few months. Inquiries and questions may be directed to Rob Slesak via email at raslesak@umn.edu or by calling 651-603-6756.

The guidelines are a set of forest management practices designed to mitigate impacts to soil and water quality, wetlands, wildlife habitat, historic and cultural sites, and visual quality during activities such as timber harvesting. Following a two year evaluation process, the MFRC proposed changes which include modification of the 1) allowable infrastructure (roads and landings) amount, 2) leave (green) tree retention guidelines, 3) biomass guidelines as related to slash retention, and 4) riparian management zone characteristics.

Documents
Draft proposed language
Background and a summary of changes

Reference Material
RSTC report
RSTC Economic analysis
Full timber harvesting and forest management guidebook (FMG) (5.4 MB PDF file)

Background Process Information

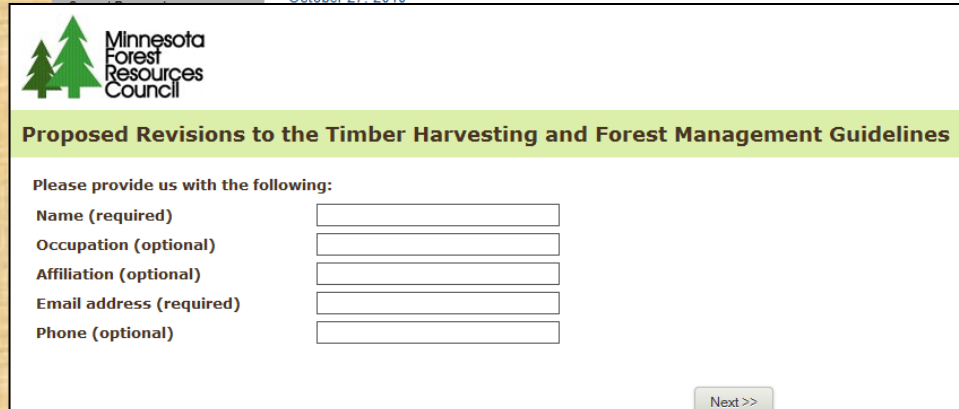Recommended Revisions Approved for Peer and Public Review - March 2012
Summary

Site-level Committee Recommendations to MFRC - January and March 2012
Summary

Site-level Committee Meeting Summaries
June 17, 2010
October 27, 2010

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Proposed Revisions to the Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Guidelines

Please provide us with the following:

Name (required)
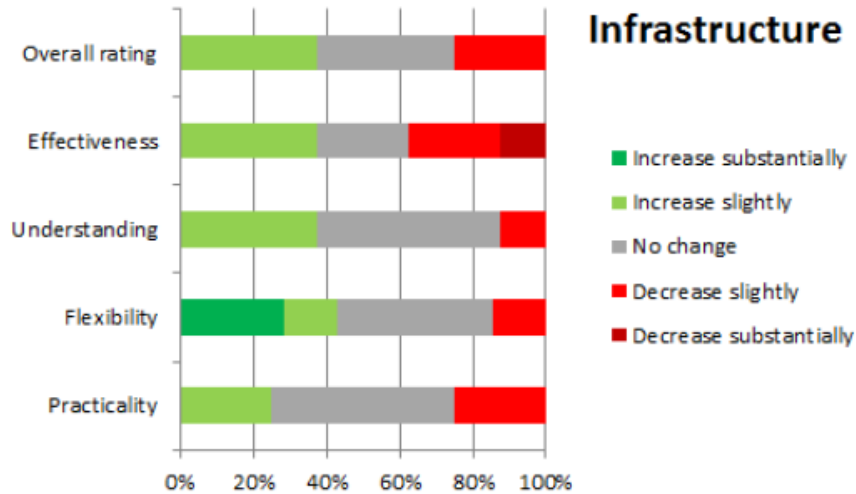Occupation (optional)
Affiliation (optional)
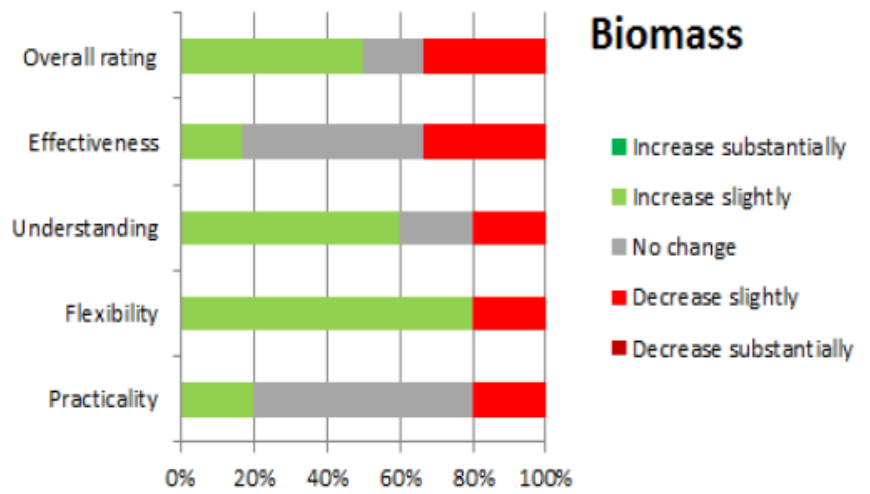Email address (required)
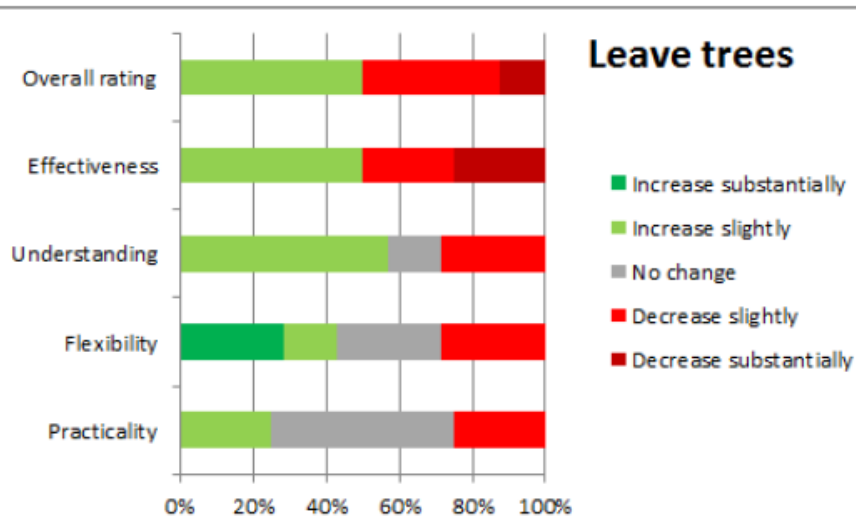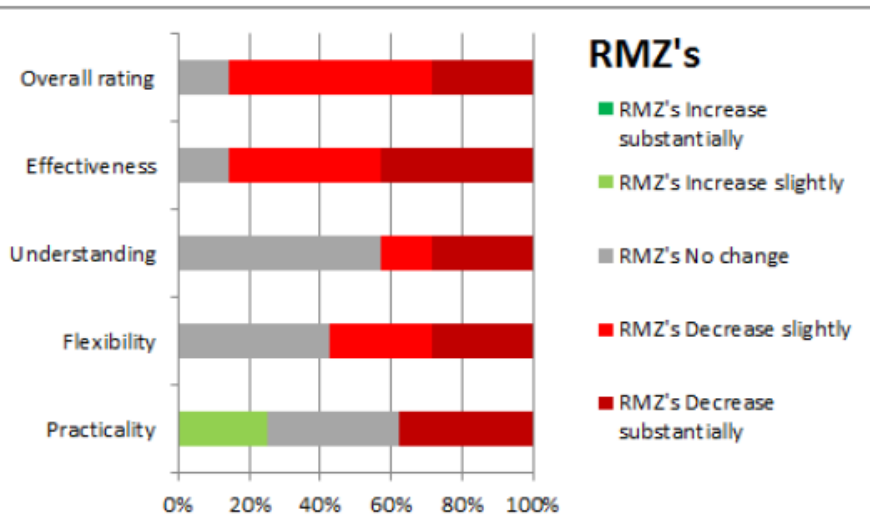Phone (optional)

Next >>

Public rankings

Practitioner rankings
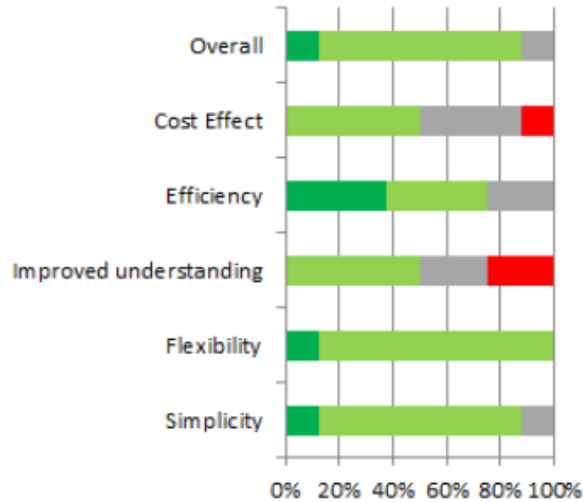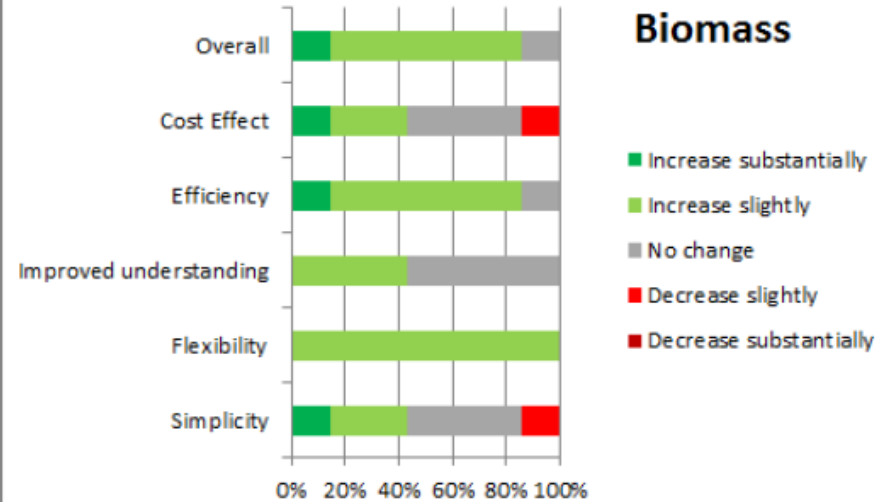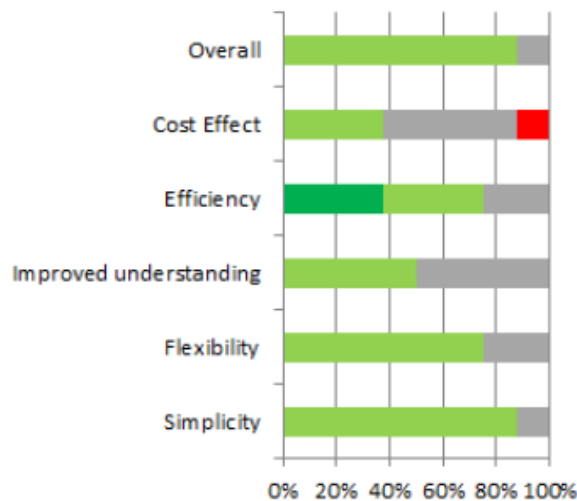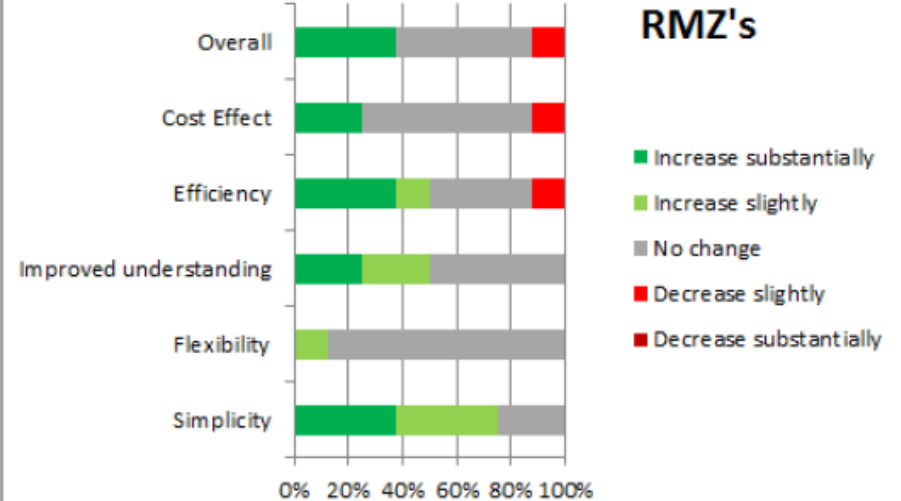
Scientific rankings

"Small" items (additional language)

Infrastructure

- Emphasize limiting the total amount to absolute needed

- Reference the use of mitigation practices

- Clarify what constitutes infrastructure (i.e.,landings)

Biomass guidelines

- Sidebar explaining ombrotrophic / associated characteristics

- Clarification of FWD guideline

- Guidance on estimating breakage / overall retention?

- Sidebar expanding on slash importance in hardwood + deep sands

RMZ's

- Reemphasize existing flexibility considerations; include new example related to early-successional wildlife species

- Clarify that recommendations are the average condition within the entire RMZ (existing language may be sufficient)

- Trout-bearing waters vs. all associated tributaries

"Larger" items

Infrastructure – recommendations not intuitive

Leave trees – economic considerations

Leave trees – counting RMZ area as leave tree area

RMZ's – residual basal area (RSTC vs. MFRC recs)

Infrastructure

Widespread support for the change in general

Some comments that the categories were not intuitive

SL recommendation: do nothing

Justification: recommendations are based on observed trends and patterns in the monitoring data

Harvest area	Infrastructure area
< 20 acres	1 acre
20-30 acres	5% of harvest area
>30 acres	3% of harvest area

Leave trees – economic considerations

~Half of scientific reviewers argued

against including economic considerations

- Already implicit in other considerations

- Only non-merchantable trees will be retained

- Impacts on wildlife and stand structure

SL recommendation: add in additional language to provide context for the economic consideration (underlined=original)

"Economic value: Consider the economic value of the leave trees when selecting which ones to leave. Economic values include both present and future market value of the tree, and the economic value imparted to recreation, aesthetics, clean water, and other non-market goods. Economic considerations should be made in context of the overall management objective and in terms that are consistent with the other considerations related to species, size, and condition."

Leave trees – counting RMZ area

~Half of scientific reviewers argued against
counting RMZ area as leave tree area
- Upland areas would not be protected

SL recommendation: do nothing

Justification: original recommendation
was central to the overall "package".
- Willing to accept potential impact to
uplands for greater riparian protection
- Only ~20% of harvests contain RMZ areas
- Some of those harvests with RMZ's will still have interior trees

RMZ residual basal area

Majority of public comments did not support RBA recommendation

- Most called for RSTC-recommendation of 75 ft^2

- Process failure? (stakeholder alienation)

- Some reviewers with opposing view (too high/restrictive)

SL recommendation: do nothing

Justification: 60 ft^2 is minimum for fully stocked stands

- Continuity with previous recommendations

- Parity with recommendations from nearby states

Next steps

- Council review of actions proposed by SL committee

- Economic analysis completed and evaluated

- Final vote on language at September meeting